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new determination was made of the water surface, upland, tidemarth, forest, etc. From this it appears that the area of closed upland determined from the survey exceeded the census figures for improved land by about 17 per cent. "This is sufficiently close to establish the accuracy of the census figures. The agreement of the two sets of figures, obtained by entirely independent and widely different methods, is in fact remarkable."

RAILROAD STATISTICS.

First Annual Report on the Statistics of Railways in the United States to the Interstate Commerce Commission for the year ending June 30, 1888. Henry C. Adams, Statistician. Washington, 1889. Pp. 390.

Manual of the Railroads of the United States for 1889, showing their route and mileage, etc. By Henry V. Poor. H. V. and H. W. Poor, New York, 1889. Pp. 130, xxvii, 1064, 293.

The following comparison of these two Statistical Reports is from an article in the September issue of *The Railroad and Engineering Journal*, Philadelphia:—

This year the figures of the *Manual* are supplemented by the publication of the first annual report of the Statistician of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

The Interstate Commission returns were received from companies owning or operating 139,102 miles of railroad, and the Statistician estimates that there were in addition 10,800 miles of railroad, making a total of 149,902 miles. The figures for capital, earnings, etc., given in his tables are from returns received from 136,884 miles of road.

On the other hand, *Poor's Manual* reports the total mileage of railroad in the United States at 156,082 miles, but its figures are not all based on that mileage.

The Commission reports have the advantage that they cover a uniform year (that ending June 30, 1888), and were made on a uniform plan; but *Poor's* reports, while they do not cover a uniform year, are generally brought up to a later date, the majority of the companies covering the calendar year 1888 with their figures.

With these facts understood, it will be interesting to make some comparison of the two sets of figures, giving the stock, debt, earnings, and expenses of the railroads of the United States :—

	Commission.	<i>Poor's Manual.</i>
Stock.....	136,884 miles.	154,276 miles.
Funded debt.....	\$3,864,468,055	\$4,438,411,342
Floating debt.....	3,869,216,365	4,624,035,023
	396,103,311	306,952,589
Total.....	\$8,129,787,731	\$9,369,338,954
Per mile of road.....	59,392	60,731
Earnings :		(145,341 miles.)
Passengers.....	\$277,339,150	\$251,356,167
Freight.....	613,290,679	639,200,723
Other sources.....	19,991,391	60,065,118
Total.....	\$910,621,220	\$950,622,008
Working expenses.....	594,994,656	653,258,331
Net Earnings.....	\$315,626,564	\$297,363,677
Other receipts.....	89,593,471	84,807,880
Total.....	\$415,220,035	\$382,261,557
Fixed charges.....	285,492,433	288,610,506
Surplus.....	\$129,727,602	\$93,651,051

The surplus, according to the Commission report, was 3.35 per cent on the stock, but this was probably greater than the real return. According to the *Manual* the dividends actually paid amounted to \$78,943,041.

Some of the discrepancies in the above tables arise without doubt from differing methods of classifying earnings, etc., and from the arrangement of figures under varying heads.

According to the Commission returns the railroads derived 30.46 per cent of their earnings from passengers, 67.35 per cent from freight, and 2.19 per cent from other sources. The division of working expenses was : Maintenance of way, 22.60 per cent ; maintenance of equipment, 17.09 ; conducting transportation, 50.26 ; general expenses, 9.34 ; miscellaneous, 0.71 per cent.

The traffic figures given by *Poor's Manual* are of interest as showing the extent of business done by the railroads :—

Train mileage.....	688,751,371
Passengers carried.....	451,353,655
“ “ one mile.....	11,190,613,679
Tons freight carried.....	589,396,317
“ “ one mile.....	70,423,005,988
Average passenger journey.....	24.78 miles.
“ freight haul.....	119.48 “
“ receipt per passenger per mile.....	2.246 cents.
“ “ per ton per mile.....	0.907 “